

In Recognition of the Eglin-Hurlburt Site of the MITRE Corporation upon 50 Years of Service to the United States of America

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the MITRE Corporation on the occasion of its 50th anniversary and upon completion of the modernization of their Eglin-Hurlburt Site. It is my pleasure and privilege to honor MITRE for its dedicated service to the Northwest Florida community and to the United States of America.

The MITRE Corporation was founded in 1958 on the premise that the government needed a corporate partner to provide technical expertise in systems engineering and integration. MITRE was born out of the Lincoln Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Its founding principle was to produce quality expertise for the government by drawing on the best in both the commercial and public sectors to solve the Nation's most difficult technical problems. Its first project was to provide systems engineering for the Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) program, and MITRE chose Eglin Air Force Base as its first site.

Over the years, the Eglin-Hurlburt Site has been a vital part of the development and testing of countless critical sensor systems, data link systems, and command and control systems. From its development of telemetry methods in the 1960's to its recent work on the integration and development testing of Joint Tactical Information Distribution Systems (JTIDS), MITRE has spent the last 50 years providing essential services to the defense community of the United States.

Today, the MITRE Eglin-Hurlburt Site consists of 18 engineers, scientists, researchers, analysts, and support staff providing a wide range of development and engineering expertise to the United States Air Force Special Operations Command, Air Armament Center, and 505th Command and Control Wing. MITRE has earned an international reputation for technical excellence and innovation. Their local employees devote themselves to serving the public interest as well as contributing incalculable hours of community service throughout the Florida Panhandle.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor one of America's true corporate leaders, the MITRE Corporation and its Eglin-Hurlburt Site, for their 50 years of service to the defense community of Northwest Florida and across the United States. I wish everyone at MITRE the best for continued success.

HONORING DAVE WELDON

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and colleague, Congressman DAVE WELDON, who is retiring from the House

of Representatives after serving the people of the 15th district of Florida for 14 years. He has always served his constituents with dignity, class, and integrity.

He has been a great example of a true citizen legislator. He put aside successful careers in our Nation's Armed Forces and in private practice as a physician to devote many years of his life to public service.

DAVE has been a leading national supporter of NASA and other space issues. He has been a strong leader in Florida advocating the need to invest in NASA and the many benefits it provides our Nation. From his service on the Science and Appropriations Committees, he has kept a close eye on the space program and ensured Florida's Space Coast plays an integral role in national space policy.

It has been an honor serving with him, and it is a privilege to call him a good friend. I wish DAVE and his wonderful wife Nancy much happiness in the next chapter of their lives.

HONORING DR. DAVE WELDON FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF OUTSTANDING CONGRESSIONAL SERVICE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about one of my colleagues from the great State of Florida who is retiring this year. Dr. DAVE WELDON from Indialantic has served in this body for many years with honor and distinction and will be sorely missed by his friends and colleagues.

Following his arrival in Congress in 1995, Dr. WELDON quickly made a name for himself as someone who cared deeply for his constituents. As someone who had built his career prior to Congress as a physician, Dr. WELDON was perfectly suited to a second career as a public servant.

His legislative efforts in the House have brought tens of millions of federal funds back to Florida, restoring our infrastructure, building roads and bridges, preserving precious wetlands, and helping his friends and neighbors live a better life.

Perhaps his signature achievement in Congress has been his continued fight for the unborn. Using his position as a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, Dr. WELDON continually sought to protect those who do not have a voice.

Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I help send my good friend Dr. WELDON off into the next stage of his career. After so many years of making sacrifices in his family life and professional career, now is the time when he can devote his time and energy to his wife Nancy and his two children. I wish him the best of luck and hope that he will continue to give back to his local community and the State of Florida.

HONORING BALDWIN HIGH SCHOOL BOYS VARSITY X-COUNTRY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania's Baldwin High School Boys Varsity Cross-Country team for their first place finish in the McDonald's Cross Country Festival at Maymont, Virginia. The team finished 25 seconds ahead of the second place team in the silver division. With their decisive victory the boys of Baldwin are now recognized among to top cross-country teams in Pennsylvania this year.

The McDonald's Cross Country Festival at Maymont draws over 3,000 of the best high school athletes from 15 different States. The Baldwin team put in long, hard hours of training to place among the elite teams in the State. I would like to recognize the dedication of T.J. Hobart, Matt Cecala, Dennis Logan, Michael Cain, Paul Degregorio, George Crompton and my grandson, David Wainwright. I congratulate their fine performance in Maymont.

I recently spoke with Baldwin's cross-country coach Wright and he highlighted the special comradery and commitment of everyone on the team. The Baldwin team has attended the meet for the last 3 years; however, the dedicated young men I have mentioned are the first to emerge victorious. The coach spoke of his pride with the boys' accomplishment and I share his pride today.

It is my honor to recognize the victory of the Baldwin Boys Varsity Cross-Country team, especially my grandson David. I commend their hard work and commitment to teamwork as they head into "championship month" in Pennsylvania. I wish the boys the best of luck in the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League State Championship in Hershey later this month.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CORPORAL KODY WILSON

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize CPL Kody Wilson of Erie, Kansas. Corporal Wilson was serving in our armed forces in our efforts abroad and was injured. Upon his injuries he was taken to Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

While at Walter Reed, Corporal Wilson was an inspiration to others. One individual was truly moved by his story and wrote a poem to honor this soldier. I would like to share this poem with you:

FROM OUT OF THE WEST
(By Bert Caswell)

From Out of The West . . .
As over the years, as have come from so here
. . . all of our best . . .
Fine Women and Men, of honor so then . . .
sons and daughters who our nation
have blessed . . .
As over the years . . .
Have been shed many a tear, for all those
lost and injured loved ones . . . so very
dear . . .

Who are but all our finest daughters and
sons, who so bring us to tears . . .

Who but live by a code . . .
Who but carry that burden, who but teach us
all so . . . as they carry that load . . .
As now once again, such a very fine man . . .
by the name of Kody, so shows us the
way . . .

What the word hero so means!
Like Bob Dole of Kansas, they are both one
and the same . . .

Who from this great heartland the word hero
can claim!

Without his one leg . . .
He lives by a code of honor and faith so
strode . . . that would make any heart
beg . . .

For there in his darkest of pain, in what God
has so left to him . . . so remains . . .
the greatest I say . . .

As we so watch him and learn . . .
As Kody so teaches us all to discern . . . how
a heart full of courage can burn . . .
As the leg he has lost, but like all our great
heroes of the past he accepts that great
cost . . . in turn . . .

You see, he's got a life to live . . .
And so much more to this our world to so
give . . .

To teach us, to reach us . . . as we so watch
in wonder, as his most magnificent
heart gives . . .

For on this day . . . we must understand . . .
This Army Man, so shows us the way . . . as
taller than most he now so stands . . .
And if I have a son, I pray he'd be like this
one . . . who runs with his heart all the
way to Heaven's sun . . .

From Out of The West . . .
Once, again . . . as here has so come one of
our Nation's best . . .

Who our hearts will so bless, who leave us
breathless . . .

In Honor of Kody Wilson

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask that you join
me in honoring CPL Kody Wilson, and recog-
nize his courage, commitment and patriotism
to serving the United States and the people of
Kansas. I truly wish all the best for him in his
future endeavors and will remain grateful for
his service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO RAMONA RIPSTON

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, my col-
leagues, Representative JANE HARMAN, Rep-
resentative HENRY WAXMAN. Representative
ADAM SCHIFF, Representative DIANE WATSON,
Representative MAXINE WATERS, Representa-
tive XAVIER BECERRA, Representative LINDA
SÁNCHEZ, REPRESENTATIVE HILDA SOLIS and I
are greatly pleased to join Ramona Ripston's
army of fans in recognizing her decades of
service to the American Civil Liberties Union
of Southern California, ACLU/SC, and also in
celebrating the dedication of the Ramona
Ripston Center for Civil Liberties and Civil
Rights in Los Angeles. Over many years of
friendship, we have admired Ramona's work
and sought her advice, as she guided the
ACLU/SC as its executive director. She is one
of the Nation's premier and most distinguished
advocates for civil rights and against violence
and hatred.

Many of us have known Ramona for 30 or
more years and have been fortunate to work

with her on a whole host of issues ranging
from immigration reform to the Voting Rights
Act, the Constitution and the first amendment.
It's been a great pleasure to watch the grace
and dedication she brings to everything she
does. Whether working with corporate leaders
in the boardroom, policymakers on Capitol Hill,
and movie stars, or walking Skid Row, she
has always brought something extra and very
special to the table.

Ramona's view of civil liberties embodies
action more than words. She is a frequent vis-
itor in the poorest parts of our communities
where she meets with the homeless and desti-
tute of Los Angeles, serving them by making
them aware of what a civil liberties organiza-
tion is and how it can help them know and ex-
ercise their basic rights. She does this not
only from compassion and empathy, but be-
cause she is more comfortable there than sit-
ting in her office. Because of this propensity,
the ACLU/SC is the only affiliate to advocate
an economic Bill of Rights. She simply suc-
ceeded in making economic rights a civil lib-
erties issue.

When civil wars in Central America brought
thousands of refugees to America, Ramona
could be found where immigrants gathered.
She was seeking information about how the
INS and our social service and educational
entities dealt with them, carrying on the de-
cades of work done by the ACLU/SU in advo-
cating for the rights of all people, including ra-
cial and ethnic minorities and the newly-ar-
rived.

In the same way, Ramona made equality of
educational opportunity a priority—not just by
reading scores and statistics, but by going out
to schools in poor areas and meeting with stu-
dents. She made her office a part of those
communities.

Even a quick and cursory review of Ramo-
na's accomplishments and the legion of hon-
ors awarded her by prominent community and
national leaders and by numerous organiza-
tions dedicated to human rights demonstrates
the extent of her work: her assertive and ar-
ticate voice constantly advancing the causes
dear to her and vital to the protection of our
liberties—from the right to free speech to the
ability to organize as workers, the protection of
antiwar demonstrators, the fights against cen-
sorship and the defense of civil rights. The
ACLU/SC and Ramona have often held con-
troversial positions and done so in the face of
vociferous attacks. It is with profound appre-
ciation for their courage, foresight, and tena-
city that we salute both her and the organiza-
tion she has guided.

The ACLU holds that the Constitution is its
client, but for Ramona Ripston, it has also
been all about the clients themselves. It is a
joy to honor her and to congratulate her for
the high esteem in which she is held and for
the width and breadth of her humanitarian and
democratic ideals.

As the new headquarters building—the Ra-
mona Ripston Center for Civil Liberties and
Civil Rights—is dedicated, we ask our col-
leagues to join us in paying tribute to Ramona,
and to the ACLU of Southern California for
decades of work in defense of liberty and jus-
tice for all. The fight is never over and we are
grateful for the bulwark you will continue to be.

THE THINGS WHICH MATTER

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I would
like to submit the following poem, written by
Mr. Albert Carey Caswell, in memory of our
late great colleague, Congresswoman Steph-
anie Tubbs Jones.

THE THINGS WHICH MATTER

The things which matter . . .
The moments which count, the ones all the
end which so amount . . .

All in our lives, are all of those things in our
hearts of which are so tantamount . . .

The very ones . . .
Which all in the end, are what our souls are
really so all about . . .

As to this our world, what we so give no
doubt . . . all in these our lives to tout
. . .

Are all those things which really matter . . .
Are but the ones, which so make The Angels
hearts so shout!

All in the end, are but really what our lives
are all about!

The Ways and Means . . .
By which we overcome all the odds, all in
our life's themes . . .

Are but the ones, our songs which so make
our Lord's heart so shine and gleam
. . .

Stephanie Tubbs Jones . . .
A Heroine . . . A Pioneer . . . A Champion
for Civil Rights so seen!

A great strong great woman of firsts, who
but lived The American Dream!

The only thing bigger than her bright big
smile . . .

Was but her fine kind and warm heart, that
which so caressed all . . . all the while
. . .

For in these our short lifetimes, these are
but the things you'll find!

For it's how we live . . .
And it's how we lead, all in this world which
so helps her to succeed . . .

And who we care for, and for whom we bleed
. . . giving to her what she so needs!

Are but All Those Things Which Really Mat-
ter . . .

All in these our times, all in these our short
lives which we so bring about . . .

All in the end, what really up in Heaven . . .
what so matters no doubt!

SCHOOL SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ACT 2007

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam
Speaker, I support H.R. 2352, the "School
Safety Enhancements Act of 2007", which is
aimed at making America a safer place. The
bill under consideration addresses health and
safety issues for children. I support this bill
and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

H.R. 2352 is necessary and will ensure the
protection and safety of our children in a
learning environment. Violence at our schools
have increased at an alarming rate in States